



August 8, 2013

**BY ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex parte filing in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 29, 2013, Brenda Shepard and Robert Dunn of TelAlaska, Inc. met with Commissioner Ajit Pai, Nick Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Pai, Jason Suslavich from the office of Congressman Don Young, Andrea Sanders from the office of Senator Mark Begich, and Peter Lewis from the office of Senator Lisa Murkowski.

At that meeting, we described the Interior Telephone Company and Mukluk Telephone Company, Inc. service areas; particularly, the logistical complexities of constructing and maintaining infrastructure in remote locations and the related costs. We discussed the lack of terrestrial middle-mile facilities and the limitations of satellite in delivering broadband services for education, health care, and economic development in remote rural communities. We also thanked Commissioner Pai for the interim waiver for Alaska of the Quantile Regression Analysis (QRA) benchmarks in order to examine the long-term impact on broadband build-out. We discussed the chilling effect that the QRA is having on future investment and the difficulties of attracting capital.

On July 31, 2013, Commissioner Pai, Jason Suslavich from the Office of Congressman Young, James Williams from Tanana Chiefs, and Brenda Shepard from TelAlaska visited the community of Fort Yukon. The visit began with a tour of the University of Fairbanks' (UAF) Yukon Flats Center and a discussion with Tisha Simmons, Interior Aleutians Campus Director, and staff regarding the high cost and poor quality of satellite middle-mile for education applications. The next meeting, which included a tour of Fort Yukon School, was with the Yukon Flats School District. Superintendent Lance Bowie stressed the importance of the E-Rate program in providing broadband connections to remote schools and the challenges they face in providing quality education. He provided a demonstration of how the teachers use technology and the Internet in the curriculum to expand access to instructional materials and enhance the learning experience for their students. Following the school demonstration, we toured the Yukon Flats Health Center facility. The tour of the facility included a telehealth demonstration of a remote clinic operating over a satellite connection. The final meeting of the day was a joint meeting with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Government and Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government. Chief Nancy James led a discussion on Internet and broadband performance and other challenges facing tribal members.

As required by the Commission's rules, this ex parte record is now filed in the above referenced docket. If there are any questions, please call me at 907-563-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/  
Brenda Shepard, CEO  
TelAlaska, Inc.

Copy to:  
Nick Degani